



# NIH Environmental Management System

Take Action to Protect the Future



## NEMS NEWS

October 2010



For more information:

[www.nems.nih.gov](http://www.nems.nih.gov)

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### “THE GREEN SPOTLIGHT”

*Each month we will spotlight an employee or topic of interest at the NIH.*

Our spotlight is shining this month on the NIH Energy Conservation Program. This program helps our employees contribute to energy saving by keeping them aware of energy issues and providing them training and tools to reduce their use.

A portion of the Executive Summary of the Energy Conservation Program states that as an integral part of The Federal Government's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the nation's leader in biomedical research. Due to its size and mission, NIH is also one of the largest consumers of electricity, natural gas, and water in the DC region. Utility bills from the Bethesda Campus alone are near \$100,000,000 annually. As such, there is also pressure to control costs from within NIH, as well as Federal goals, regulations, laws and scorecards that NIH must comply with. In order to meet these requirements, a robust Energy & Water Conservation program has been developed by NIH.

The NIH Energy and Water Conservation Program focuses on the many aspects of facilities from initial development and design, through construction and commissioning, and continuing with existing facilities auditing, analyses, and subsequent energy and water conservation projects. One such project is that NIH has installed utility metering on all its Bethesda buildings. Facility utility metering is an essential part of an energy management program. Without knowing the extent of domestic water, chilled water, steam, condensate, electricity, air, etc. being used by individual buildings, no utility baseline for energy exists.

In addition to energy management, an equally important if not more important issue is operations and maintenance. With a comprehensive metering system, operational issues such as excessive/minimal temperature changes, water flow problems, electrical spikes and malfunctions etc. can be potentially much easier to evaluate based on historical data trending. This data can be used to more effectively solve campus problems that can affect the end users and customers at any given time.

If interested, visit the spreadsheet (on the NEMS Energy page) that tracks approximately 40 technologies considered for use at the NIH.

<http://nems.nih.gov/aspects/energy/Technology%20Matrix.xls>



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## NEMS NEWS

### **NIH is celebrating America Recycles Day with a Recycling Competition!**

America Recycles Day occurs annually on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This year the Office of Research Facilities (ORF), Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) is asking for your participation in a recycling completion, pitting building against building.

The accumulation of mixed paper and commingles recycling will be tracked throughout the month of October and the results will be announced during the week of November 15. The building will be judged on the reduction of solid waste generated and the increase in materials recycled. The building with the largest decrease in solid waste as compared to October 2009 data will win the title of Waste Minimization Extraordinaire. The Grand Champion honor will go to the building with the highest recycling rate. Each contest will have a winner announced in the office and the laboratory building category.

- The competition is between buildings. The recycling data is currently collected by building.
- Some buildings do not have recycling and/or solid waste data that were necessary for the competition.
- The Recycling is weighed on pallet jacks before it leaves each building. Solid waste is weighed when it is dropped off at the Montgomery County Transfer Station.
- The results will be posted during the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any further questions, please call DEP at 301-496-7990. Also look for various other events your IC Green Teams may be hosting during the week of November 15.

## **Upcoming Events and Meetings**

### **Green Team Leads Council Meeting**

October 20, 1-3  
Bldg. 31/6C Room 6

### **You Have the Power to Make the Connections EXPO**

October 20, 11-3:30  
HHS Building/Great Hall/DC

### **Sustainable Lab Practices Working Group**

October 27, 1:30-3:30  
Bldg 31/6C Room 10

